

February 28, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

As Lincoln Avenue homeowners and Amherst taxpayers, we are writing in opposition to the proposed implementation of speed tables on the street. Speed tables should never be used on critical emergency response or bus routes, and Lincoln Avenue is used for both purposes. Installation of such tables would be both irresponsible and dangerous.

Speed tables, humps and bumps are typically used in apartment or commercial parking lots – not on residential streets as they force home owners to drive up and down obnoxious mounds multiple times per day. This also puts residents in life-threatening danger when we demand rapid emergency response from the fire department, police department and ambulance.

Data already collected and analyzed by the Town reflect average vehicle speeds in excess of 30 miles per hour over posted limits on Lincoln Avenue, very high vehicle volume on Lincoln Avenue and Fearing Street, the failure of speed cushions in experiments to reduce overall vehicle speed on Lincoln Avenue and the failure of partial closures on Lincoln and Sunset Avenues to reduce vehicle volume or speed. The University's potential plan to close one of its main campus entrances on North Pleasant Street will result in even greater traffic volume diverged to Lincoln Avenue and nearby residential side streets.

Given the indisputable data already gathered over past experimentation, we believe the following options are the only logical and viable win-win solutions for the Town, the community and the University:

- 1.) Close Lincoln and Sunset Avenue entrances into the University as originally proposed and encourage a more pedestrian-friendly environment, as endorsed by Dennis Swinford, University of Massachusetts Director for Campus Planning.¹
- 2.) Reduce the speed limit on Lincoln Avenue and Fearing Street to 20 miles per hour and add permanent police enforcement on both roads. Revenue generated from speeding tickets alone would be able to provide the Town with enough resources to pay that professional's salary and then some.

We urge town officials to reconsider the best solution proposed thus far to curb unsafe traffic volume and speed, which is a complete block of traffic into the campus from this residential street to deflect drivers to the suitably and safely designed official campus entrances on either side including North University Drive and North Pleasant Street, the later of which provides a direct route to downtown businesses. Please do not further burden Lincoln Avenue homeowners and residents, thwart our family's personal safety or slow emergency response vehicles with roadway obstructions.

1.
http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2011/02/umass_campus_master_plan_close_portion_north_pleasant_street.html